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the space between us

by

Alysha Creighton

A thesis submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Fine Arts

in

Drawing and Intermedia

Department of Art and Design

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Spring 2013

Edmonton, Alberta

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Artist Statement: the space between us

Alysha Creighton

These works mine the silences, the spaces, the moments that pass between us when we encounter an other.

Through the choreographies enacted by the figures gathered here I draw attention to the spaces between bodies—spaces that so often escape our awareness; spaces hidden in plain sight. In *Fold*, the simple, repeated action of bodies moving together and apart, the movement of black cloth billowing, contracting and expanding between them, draws us to what transpires *between* the figures. The negative space comes forward and retreats, the black slips between solid form and deep space, one moment inscribing presence and the next signifying absence.

Here, as in other works, negative space begins to emerge as a third presence; as something substantive. The negative space has a viscosity, a presence, a force that points to the complex network of relations, histories and tensions that accumulate within and traverse the space between.

In this spirit, these works confound any straightforward relation to the subject, at times confounding vision itself. Intimate cropping, as in *Balance*, unfamiliar perspectives, as in *Fold*, and the translucent screen that obscures our view of the figure in *Hand Writing* withhold usual markers of identity and modes of communication, namely the face, inviting viewers to attend to the subtle language of the body.

These works welcome the viewer into an *experience* of negative space. Each work calls the viewer to a different kind of engagement. Embedded in the exterior architecture of the building, *Erasure*, attends to the lateral, the liminal, the periphery of vision. Its irregular, at times erratic, comings and goings meet the viewer at the limits of visibility. In a different way, the slow durational unfolding of *Hand Writing* invites a quiet searching out and unraveling of meaning.

These works gently call us into a “world of becoming with” others in which we recognize both our limits and our connectedness (Haraway, 2008). *the space between us* seeks to create an opening, a space, through which we might glimpse the ways that the unknown quietly intervenes in our encounters with others.

Albanian, English, French, German, Italian, Latin, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Turkish, Ukrainian, Vietnamese, Yiddish, Zulu.

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Image List: the space between us

Alysha Creighton

Title: *Hand Writing*

Date: 2012

Media: Digital video projection, mylar, plexiglas

Running time: 13:21

Creighton.01

Installation view

Creighton.02

Installation view

Creighton.03

Installation view

Creighton.04

Video excerpt of installation

Title: *Fold*

Date: 2012

Media: Three channel digital video, monitors, media players

Running time: 11:42

Creighton.05

Installation view

Creighton.06

Installation view

Creighton.07

Installation view

Creighton.08

Video excerpt of installation

Title: *Conversation*

Date: 2013

Media: Digital video, monitors, media players, extension cords

Running time: 14:31

Creighton.09

Installation view

Creighton.10

Installation view

Creighton.11

Installation view

Bridge I let the space between us

John G. Thompson

Table 1: Bridge I let the space between us

Date: 2011

Bridge I let the space between us
Bridges I let the space between us

Bridge I let the space between us

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Bridge I let the space between us

Creighton.12
Video excerpt of installation

Title: *Balance*

Date: 2012

Media: Digital video projection

Running time: 16:10

Creighton.13
Installation view

Creighton.14
Installation view

Creighton.15
Installation view

Creighton.16
Video excerpt of installation

Title: *Erasure*

Date: 2012

Media: Digital video projection, mylar

Running time: 10:30

Creighton.17
Installation view

Creighton.18
Installation view

Creighton.19
Installation view

Creighton.20
Video excerpt of installation

Chapter 1
Introduction

Chapter 2
The History of the
United States

Chapter 3
The Constitution

Chapter 4
The Executive Branch

Chapter 5
The Legislative Branch

Chapter 6
The Judicial Branch

Chapter 7
The Federal System
and the States

Chapter 8
The Federal System
and the States

Chapter 9
The Federal System
and the States

Chapter 10
The Federal System
and the States

Chapter 11
The Federal System
and the States

ALYSHA CLAIRE CREIGHTON

b. 1986 Vancouver, Canada // www.alyshacreighton.com

Education

Master of Fine Arts, Drawing and Intermedia [2010-2013]

University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada

Thesis: *the space between us*

Supervisors: Allen Ball and Liz Ingram

Bachelor of Arts, Visual Art with Great Distinction [2005-2009]

Trinity Western University, Langley, BC, Canada

Secondary Education, Visual Art/Creative Writing [1999-2004]

Lord Byng Arts Mini School, Vancouver, BC, Canada

Awards and Honors

- | | |
|------|--|
| 2012 | A. Florence Andison Friedman Award
Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

Graduate Student Scholarship
Alberta Ministry of Advanced Education and Technology, Edmonton, AB |
| 2011 | Alberta Foundation for the Arts Graduate Scholarship
Alberta Foundation for the Arts, Edmonton, AB |
| 2010 | Walter H. Johns Graduate Fellowship
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship
Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada

Honorary University of Alberta Master's Recruitment Scholarship
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB |
| 2008 | Grant & Sinclair Architects Scholarship
Trinity Western University, Langley, BC |
| 2006 | BC Arts Council Study Grant
BC Arts Council, Victoria, BC |
| 2005 | Dean's Scholarship (entrance scholarship, renewed annually)
Trinity Western University, Langley, BC |

Selected Exhibitions and Screenings

- | | |
|------|---|
| 2013 | <i>the space between us</i>
MFA Thesis exhibition, FAB Gallery, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

<i>Substance of Space</i>
Stollery Gallery, Skirts a Fire Festival, Edmonton, AB |
|------|---|

Interface: Refinery Late Night Art Party [curator: Kyle Armstrong]
Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

Alberta Biennial of Contemporary Art: The News From Here [curator: Nancy Tousley]
Art Gallery of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

2012 *Trinity Western University Alumni Exhibition* [curator: Erica Grimm]
President's Gallery, Trinity Western University, Langley, BC

2011 *The Touch: Still + Moving Image Screening*
SVA Theatre, New York, NY

Matter and Spirit [curator: Patty Wickman]
University Art Gallery, Biola University, La Miranda, CA,

Innovation: Technics of a Mind Body Performance
The Little Gallery, University of Calgary, Calgary, AB

Corpus II
Rutherford Library, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

2009 *Lingua Franca* [curator: Doris Auxier]
Laurentian Centre, Ottawa, ON

Gift Shop: The TWU Senior Art Show
Langley Centennial Museum, Fort Langley, BC

2008 *Shifting Boundaries*
Cityscape Gallery, North Vancouver, BC

2006 *Black and White*
Cityscape Gallery, North Vancouver, BC

Presentations, Lectures and Artist Talks

2013 "The space between us" Artist Talk, Contemporary Art Survey Class, Prof. Natalie Loveless,
University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB

2012 "The Space Between Us: Negative space and the ethics of nonknowledge" Paper
presentation, The Verge Conference: Art and Ethics, Trinity Western University, Langley, BC
"Life After TWU: Grad School Tales" Guest Lecture, Art Major Integration Forum, Trinity
Western University, Langley BC

2011 "The Materiality of the Digital: Explorations in Video" Lecture/Artist talk, Advanced
Drawing/Intermedia, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada.

2009 "Shifting Boundaries", Artist talk, organized by the Cityscape Gallery. Cityscape
Gallery, North Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant [Roy Mills], Art 136: Visual Fundamentals, Department of Art and Design, University of
Alberta, Edmonton, AB [Fall 2012]

Teaching Assistant [Jill Ho-You], Art 136: Visual Fundamentals, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB [Fall 2012]

Teaching Assistant [Gordana Zivcovic], ART 140: Introduction to Drawing, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB [Spring 2012]

Primary Instructor, ART 140: Introduction to Drawing, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB, Canada [Winter 2012]

Teaching Assistant [Matthew Arrigo], ART 140: Introduction to drawing, Department of Art and Design, University of Alberta, Edmonton, AB [Fall 2011]

Teaching Assistant [Erica Grimm-Vance], ART 190: Art Fundamentals, Department of Art and Design, Trinity Western University, Langley, BC [Fall 2009]

Community Involvement

Exhibition Committee Co-Chair, Art and Design Graduate Student Association, University of Alberta [2012-13]
- Curator, *Encoding and Decoding*, dc3 Art Projects and SNAP Gallery, Edmonton, AB

Curator, *Unstable Natures*, Latitude 53 and the Art and Design Graduate Student Association, Edmonton, AB, Canada [2011-2012]































